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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/20/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UNMIK](#) [YI](#)  
SUBJECT: BAN TO USUN ON KOSOVO: HELP ME TO HELP EU

Classified By: Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for Reasons 1.4 b/d.

¶1. (C) In a one-on-one meeting on February 20 with Ambassador Khalilzad, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon compared the UN's remaining tenure in Kosovo to a movie fade-out, but complained that EU leadership is complicating UNMIK's transition strategy. Ban cited in particular comments -- attributed in the press to EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and to incoming EU special envoy for Kosovo Peter Feith -- effectively asserting immediate EU supremacy to the UN in Kosovo. He said these comments contrast with his own public position and initial post-declaration statements from Brussels, both of which acknowledged that UNMIK was still in charge.

¶2. (C) Ban said the 120-day UN-EU transition period was essential not just to an orderly transfer of operational control but to management of Russian sensitivities. He said Russian PermRep Vitaly Churkin had expressed gratitude during a February 19 meeting for the SYG's handling of Kosovo's declaration of independence; Ban had surmised that the Russians were looking for a face-saving way to back away from the Kosovo issue. Ban thought Churkin had accepted that Russia had had its day in court and would likely accept the UN-EU transition if the EU could refrain from touting EU authority in Kosovo during its early phases. Churkin asked in particular that during the transition period UNMIK and the EU refrain from holding joint press conferences and from issuing joint documents.

¶3. (C) To mitigate what he sees as a potential for serious disruption of the end-game, Ban said he would dispatch Under Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno quietly to Brussels to

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ask that Feith in particular be asked to lower his profile on Kosovo chain-of-command issues and related coordination issues. Ban would welcome our help in managing the EU's Kosovo profile vis-a-vis the UN.  
KHALILZAD